

ting from so high a source, and treating of the very subject your Committee are charged to inquire into, with apparent and indeed express regret that circumstances exist, which, in the judgment of his Excellency, preclude Virginia from a direct communication of her views to Maryland, your Committee think they might be deemed wanting in their duty, if not in that respect of which Virginia and her functionaries are ever worthy, were they to pass it over in silence. In that document it is declared that the law of Virginia "to settle the western limits of that State, and the dividing boundary line between that State and the Commonwealth of Maryland," passed 5th of March, 1833, was intended as an acceptance of our own "proposition for the amicable settlement" of the questions existing between us. That the determination of Maryland to seek a decision of her rights by the judicial authority of the Union, was probably occasioned by "a misapprehension of the terms" of that enactment of Virginia, which was susceptible of satisfactory explanation, now only withheld, and with regret, because the attitude of Maryland is regarded as hostile or menacing.

Your Committee have been unable to discover any thing in the proceedings of Maryland which could suggest the idea of *menace*; nor does it seem to be at all applicable to the intimate relations existing between the members of this confederacy; certainly nothing could be more foreign to the intentions of Maryland than to assume such an attitude in relation to Virginia, one of her earliest and most glorious allies, not nearer geographically than in consanguinity and affection. Her great strength we know with joy, not envy; and in her glory we have always felt the keen interest of participation.

Maryland had never a hostile feeling towards Virginia; cannot wish to do her violence or wrong, but on the contrary desires the removal of the only source of disagreement, in order that if possible their union may be more intimate, and established forever on the best and surest foundations.

The southern and western boundaries of Maryland have never been adjusted and defined by compact with Virginia. We hold by charter, a charter which has been fully and solemnly recognized by the State of Virginia, but in the interpretation of that instrument the two States have not been agreed. It is right, even *indispensable*, that the interpretation should be settled, and the limits of the States ascertained, and our sister State cannot but sometime perceive that in that settlement her voice (admitted to be equal) is not entitled to preponderating influence.